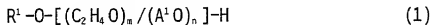


ABSTRACT

A digestion assistant for a lignocellulose material, which comprises a nonionic surfactant (A) comprising one or more compounds represented by the general formula (1):



wherein R^1 is a branched alkyl group containing 4-24 carbon atoms; m is an integer of at least 1, having an average of 4-20; A^1 is an alkylene group containing 3 or 4 carbon atoms; and n is 0 or an integer of at least 1, having an average of 0-15; wherein (C_2H_4O) and (A^1O) , in case of the average of n being 1-15, are linked random-wise and/or block-wise.